

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 343

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the American Legion upon its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those venerable organizations and their remarkable members who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this nation; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is the American Legion, which was chartered by the United States Congress on September 16, 1919, as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness; and

WHEREAS, the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion brings together a global network of nearly two million members and more than 13,000 posts throughout all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, throughout its storied history, the American Legion has worked to better the lives of veterans and their families. In 1921, the Legion's efforts led to the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, the forerunner of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and during World War II, it successfully won passage of its greatest legislative achievement, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill. Today, the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to strengthening the nation one community at a time, the Legion has sponsored more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country since its inception, and approximately 20,000 young men annually participate in Boys State, a Legion program dedicated to promoting leadership. The American Legion Baseball program was established in

1925, and 82,000 youths play on Legion-sponsored teams annually; today, more than half of all Major League Baseball players are graduates of the program; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 alone, the American Legion raised millions of dollars for Veterans Affairs hospitals, scholarships, charities, youth programs, school assistance, and family support, and its members contributed more than four million volunteer hours; and

WHEREAS, as the American Legion celebrates its rich history of a century of public service, it is appropriate to honor the many Legion members, both past and present, who have volunteered their time, talent, and resources in order to serve their community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion is most assuredly worthy of recognition and approbation on this momentous occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the members, both past and present, of the American Legion for their dedication to public service, congratulate them on the Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.